



**NORTHCENTRAL UNIVERSITY
ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEET**

Student: **Michael Higley-Vance**

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETELY FILLED IN

Follow these procedures: If requested by your instructor, please include an assignment cover sheet. This will become the first page of your assignment. In addition, your assignment header should include your last name, first initial, course code, dash, and assignment number. This should be left justified, with the page number right justified. For example:

DoeJXXX0000-1

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Save a copy of your assignments: You may need to re-submit an assignment at your instructor's request. Make sure you save your files in accessible location.

Academic integrity: All work submitted in each course must be your own original work. This includes all assignments, exams, term papers, and other projects required by your instructor. Knowingly submitting another person's work as your own, without properly citing the source of the work, is considered plagiarism. This will result in an unsatisfactory grade for the work submitted or for the entire course. It may also result in academic dismissal from the University.

EDU7003-8

Dr. Rebecca Watts

Statistics

**Activity #4: Normal Distribution and
Probability Theory**

Comments: How is it that the copyright of the required text is 2014? ☺ I've never seen a copyright date issued before the current year. I guess cars could be an example but... I've seen this before, but I don't know why the publisher's do this.

Michael, you present some very interesting information about IQ testing. You are correct in that the distribution of IQ scores has a mean of 100 and a standard deviation of 16. These distribution scores have remained the same over years due to the re-standardization of the test scores. So a person who made a score of 100 many years ago would have a lower score than the same score of 100 today. You provide very good support for your ideas and comments. You did very well on the assignment. Let me know if you have any questions.

Faculty Use Only

<Faculty comments here>

<Faculty Name>

<Grade Earned>

<Writing Score>

<Date Graded>

Are We Smarter than Our Parents?

The probability that over the last several decades the Intelligence Quotient (IQ) of people has increased compared to the IQ scores of people from the early 1900's is said to be high according to a political science professor, Dr. James Flynn (Bennett, Briggs, & Triola, 2014). Whether it is due to heredity or the increased quality of education that students are now receiving, the average scores on IQ tests are in fact getting higher (Fuerle, 2008; Kaufman, 2010; Magar, 2011). On average, people today are smarter than their parents. The purpose of this short essay is to explore the data and information related to IQ test scores found in this area of study.

There has been a lot of controversy surrounding Intelligence Quotient (IQ) tests. Do IQ tests measure intelligence or something else? Are IQ tests accurately being reported? There are also a variety of IQ tests that determines what is normal or what deviates from the mean. Standardized IQ test scores tend to follow a normal distribution with a mean of 100 and a standard deviation of 16. However, standardizing the way tests were scored had been inconsistent for years because of what the tests were purported to measure (Bennett, Briggs, & Triola, 2014). Many of these assessments have now been normalized and the scores adjusted to fit a normal distribution with a mean of 100 (Bennett, Briggs, & Triola, 2014). [Good explanation here!](#) According to the 68-95-99.7 rule, 68% of the people taking an IQ test receive scores between 84 and 116, while 95% score between 68 and 132, and 99.7% score between 52 and 148.

According to research conducted by Fuerle (2008) children are scoring higher on IQ tests “not because their intelligence has increased, but because their brains are more mature.” Due to gains in the maturity of the population at an earlier age, this might be one of the main factors as to why Dr. James Flynn found the statistics of increasing IQ scores to be true with succeeding

generations. [This is an interesting theory and it makes sense. We mature faster.](#) However, there have been studies emerging that contradict Flynn's theory to a certain extent. According to Magar (2011) the Flynn effect does not consider all levels of ability, and in most cases reports on people with lower cognitive abilities. The research concluded that people with low IQ scores demonstrated an obvious rise as compared to people with higher IQ scores who demonstrated a disparaging decrease in this effect. [Interesting!](#) There have been studies like the one conducted by Teasdale and Owen in Denmark, which suggest the end or stagnation of the Flynn effect however, more research is needed to establish credibility to this statement (Magar, 2011).

Question #4: Discuss some of the common uses of IQ tests. Do you think that IQ tests should be used for these purposes? Does the Flynn effect alter your thoughts about the uses of IQ tests?

IQ tests are typically used to determine a person's intelligence or Intelligence Quotient (IQ). Personally, I am skeptical regarding the accuracy and validity of IQ test scores and the credibility of those who administer these types of assessments. IQ tests have typically been used to determine cognitive ability for academic placement and to determine appropriate educational assistance, mental stability for the purposes of psychological assessments, and war time potential (Cherry, 2013). I think it would be more beneficial to have a universal IQ test administered by certified evaluators. By having a universal testing and reporting system intelligence test results would be more consistent and result in improved reporting and accuracy procedures. However, I think the most important question that should be answered first, before all others, is whether or not an IQ test measures intelligence or something else all together (Bennett, Briggs, & Triola, 2014). Once this question has been answered and the research conducted then, and only then, can IQ tests be given and used with consistency, reliability, and purpose.

References

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